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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: Zhao

Examiner: Ginette Peralta

Serial No. 09/686,323

Docket No. 97RSS433DIV

Filing Date: 10/09/2000

**For: METHOD OF FABRICATING AN INTERCONNECT STRUCTURE
EMPLOYING AIR GAPS BETWEEN METAL LINES AND BETWEEN METAL
LAYERS**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for
Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

This information disclosure statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98. Listed on the accompanying form PTO-1449 are documents which may or may not be considered material to the examination of this application. These documents were made of record in a prior application filed 11/20/2000 and having serial no. 09/193,499, to which priority is claimed relative to the present application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §120. Copies of these documents are not being provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d)(1) and (2), which provides:

(d) A copy of any patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information, as specified in paragraph (a) of this section, listed in an information disclosure statement is required to be provided, even if the patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information was previously submitted to, or cited by, the Office in an earlier application, unless:

(1) The application is properly identified in the information disclosure statement and is relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120; and

(2) The information disclosure statement submitted in the earlier application complies with a paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section.

The following rights are reserved by the Applicant(s): the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed documents should they be applied as reference, the right to prove that some of these documents may not be prior art, and/or the right to prove that some of these documents may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the materials submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to conduct an independent and thorough review of the documents, and to form independent opinions as to their significance.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 to indicate the documents have been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
& RISLEY, L.L.P.

By:

William S. Feunye No. 36,161
Scott A. Horstemeyer; Reg. No. 34,183
Nov. 8, 2001

100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5948
770-933-9500
Docket: 050324-1290
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